

Galatians 5:2–26 (ESV)

² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

⁷ You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion is not from him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰ I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. ¹¹ But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. ¹² I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

I. The Danger of Apostasy (v. 2-6)

Paul’s warning indicates most had not been

__ [circumcised] _____.

What happens if they follow through with Circumcision?

John 15:1-6

II. The Need for Judgment (v.7-12)

The law represents the leaven of __ [old creation] _____

Paul calls on the Galatians to respond with firm

__ [judgment] _____ against the “troublers.”

1 Cor. 5:1-5

The implication is that the false teachers have

abandoned the ____ [cross] _____.

III. A Better Way (v. 13-26)

Real freedom is voluntary __ [servitude] _____ for others.

The Gospel, while rendering Torah obsolete, is not a simple nullification and elimination of the Torah. The true fulfillment of the purpose of the law –

__ [love your neighbor as yourself] _____. (Romans 8:4)

On the other hand, if we use our freedom for the flesh,

we descend from human to ____ [beast] _____.

This can only be avoided by __ [walking in the Spirit] ____.

How do we walk in the Spirit?

Examples of the Works of the Flesh:

- **Sexual immorality** - to engage in sexual immorality of any kind, often with the implication of prostitution—‘to engage in illicit sex, to commit fornication, sexual immorality, fornication, prostitution.’
- **Impurity** - the state of moral impurity, especially in relationship to sexual sin—‘impurity, immorality, filthiness.’
- **Sensuality** - behavior completely lacking in moral restraint
- **Idolatry** - the worship of idols
- **Sorcery** - the use of magic, often involving drugs and the casting of spells upon people
- **Enmity** - a state of enmity with someone—‘enmity, being an enemy of.’
- **Strife** - a state of enmity with someone—‘enmity, being an enemy of.’
- **Jealousy** - a particularly strong feeling of resentment and jealousy against someone
- **Fits of Anger** - a state of intense anger, with the implication of passionate outbursts—‘anger, fury, wrath, rage.’
- **Rivalries** - The meaning of ‘rivalry’ may be expressed as ‘wanting to be better than someone else’ or ‘wanting to make people think they are better.’ The meaning of ‘selfish ambition’ may be rendered as ‘what they do is just to make themselves look bigger’ or ‘what they do is just for themselves.’
- **Dissensions** - a division into opposing groups, generally two—‘division, discord.’
- **Divisions** - the content of teaching which is not true—‘false teaching, untrue doctrine, heresy.’ Or, a division of people into different and opposing sets—‘division, separate group.’
- **Envy** - a state of ill will toward someone because of some real or presumed advantage experienced by such a person—‘envy, jealousy.’
- **Drunkenness** - to become drunk on alcoholic beverages—‘to be drunk, drunkenness.’
- **Orgies** - drinking parties involving unrestrained indulgence in alcoholic beverages and accompanying immoral behavior—‘orgy, revelling, carousing.’

Examples of the Fruit of the Spirit:

- **Love** - to have love for someone or something, based on sincere appreciation and high regard—‘to love, to regard with affection, loving concern, love.’
- **Joy** - a state of joy and gladness—‘joy, gladness, great happiness.’
- **Peace** - a set of favorable circumstances involving peace and tranquility—‘peace, tranquility.’ The meaning of ‘peace’ or ‘tranquility’ may be expressed in some languages in a negative form, for example, ‘to be without trouble’ or ‘to have no worries’ or ‘to sit down in one’s heart.’
- **Patience** - a state of emotional calm in the face of provocation or misfortune and without complaint or irritation—‘patience.’
- **Kindness** - to provide something beneficial for someone as an act of kindness—‘to act kindly, to be kind, kindness.’
- **Goodness** - the act of generous giving, with the implication of its relationship to goodness—‘to be generous, generosity.’
- **Faithfulness** - the state of being someone in whom complete confidence can be placed—‘trustworthiness, dependability, faithfulness.’
- **Gentleness** - gentleness of attitude and behavior, in contrast with harshness in one’s dealings with others—‘gentleness, meekness, mildness.’
- **Self-Control** - to exercise complete control over one’s desires and actions—‘to control oneself, to exercise self- control, self-control.’

Louw, Johannes P., and Eugene Albert Nida. *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*. New York: United Bible Societies, 1996.